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FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR

SUBJECT: ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS, JULY 13-26, 1977

SUMMARY: MOST OF THE ACTION THIS FORTNIGHT WAS ON CAPITOL HILL. A SENATE-HOUSE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE COMPLETED ACTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE INSTITUTION (IFI) AUTHORIZATION BILL. THE LANGUAGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND PALM OIL, SUGAR, AND CITRUS PRODUCTS WAS QUITE GOOD. CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE HELD HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

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IN EL SALVADOR ON THURSDAY. OF SPECIAL INTEREST WAS THE TESTIMONY OF OUR FORMER AMBASSADOR THERE, IGNACIO LOZANO, JR. THE HOUSE PANAMA CANAL SUBCOMMITTEE BEGAN HEARINGS ON MONDAY ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PANAMA CANAL TO THE UNITED STATES. ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN ON BEHALF OF AMERICANS IMPRISONED IN BOLIVIA. DICK ARELLANO IS HEADING AN INTER-AGENCY TEAM WHICH WILL VISIT TRINIDAD-TOBAGO TO DISCUSS

THAT COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS. THE JAMAICANS HAVE REACHED A STAND-BY AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF MANAGEMENT. FINALLY, WE ARE REALLOCATING THE DEPUTIES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE FRONT OFFICE.

1. IFI AUTHORIZATION BILL. THE HOUSE-SENATE CONFEREES HAVE COMPLETED ACTION ON THE IFI AUTHORIZATION BILL. THE ADOPTED LANGUAGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS STATES: "WHERE OTHER MEANS HAVE PROVEN INEFFECTIVE (IN ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS)" WE ARE TO "OPPOSE" LOANS TO VIOLATORS, UNLESS SUCH ASSISTANCE SERVES BASIC HUMAN NEEDS OR "UNLESS THE PRESIDENT CERTIFIES THAT THE CAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVELY SERVED BY ACTIONS OTHER THAN VOTING AGAINST SUCH ASSISTANCE." "OPPOSE" ALLOWS AN ABSTENTION AS WELL AS A NEGATIVE VOTE. IN QUESTIONS INVOLVING PALM, OIL, SUGAR, AND CITRUS, WE MUST "OPPOSE" (AGAIN AN ABSTENTION IS POSSIBLY) ONLY THOSE PROJECTS THAT WILL RESULT IN EXPORTS WHICH WOULD CAUSE INJURY TO U.S. PRODUCERS OF COMPETING COMMODITIES.

2. CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S HEARINGS. THE HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN EL SALVADOR WERE HELD ON JULY 21, ONE DAY AFTER THE DEATH THREAT AGAINST THE "JESUITS AND OTHER COMMUNISTS" WAS TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT. ONE OF THE WITNESSES WAS FORMER AMBASSADOR IGNACIO LOZANO, JR. CONGRESSMAN FRASER ASKED THE AMBASSADOR HOW MUCH SUPPORT HE HAD

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RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT IN HIS HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORTS IN EL SALVADOR. AMBASSADOR LOZANO REPLIED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED LITTLE OR NONE, UNTIL HE WENT PUBLIC. ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT HAVE A CHANCE TO DISCUSS HIS REPLY WITH HIM, WE BELIEVE HE HAD IN MIND A SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS CASE-- THAT OF A MISSING AMERICAN (RONALD RICHARDSON) BELIEVED KILLED BY SALVADOREAN SECURITY FORCES--RATHER THAN THE GENERAL VIOLATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE SALVADOREAN PEOPLE. THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER INSTANCES IN THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF DETAINED AMERICANS, BUT THE RICHARDSON CASE HAS OVERSHADOWED THEM. THE SOURCE OF THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND AMBASSADOR LOZANO WAS A DIFFERENCE IN STRATEGIES. THE AMBASSADOR WISHED TO GO PUBLIC WITH THE CASE AT AN EARLY STAGE, BUT WE BELIEVED THAT PRIVATE DEMARCHES AND LATER WITHHOLDING ECONOMIC AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE WOULD PRODUCE MORE EFFECTIVE RESULTS. IN ADDITION WE HAVE SENT DICK ARELLANO TO EL SALVADOR TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION. WE BELIEVE OUR ACTIONS ARE BEGINNING TO SHOW EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS.

3. PANAMA CANAL SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS. CONGRESSMAN METCALFE'S SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE

AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE HELD HEARINGS TO CONSIDER THE ECONOMIC, MILITARY, AND FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS IN THE PANAMA CANAL. THE RANKING MINORITY MEMBER, CONGRESSMAN GENE SNYDER, IS BOYCOTTING THE HEARINGS BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THAT THE WITNESS LIST IS STACKED IN FAVOR OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THE MINORITY DID NOT HAVE TIME TO LINE UP SOME WITNESSES. THE WITNESSES ARE LARGELY FROM OUTSIDE OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND THOSE WITNESSES FROM THE GOVERNMENT ARE NOT INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THEY ARE PRESENTING A VARIETY OF VIEWPOINTS AND TEND TO FAVOR TREATY NEGOTIATIONS, ALTHOUGH SOME FAVOR A LESS COMPREHENSIVE REVISION THAN WE ARE NEGOTIATING. THE OVERALL TONE OF THE HEARING HAS BEEN NEUTRAL. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PRESS COVERAGE.

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4. ACTION ON PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA. A THREE-MAN TEAM FROM L, SCA AND ARA/AND WAS DISPATCHED TO LA PAZ TO REVIEW OUTSTANDING CASES AND ATTEMPT TO EXPEDITE THE JUDICIAL PROCESS IN EACH. THE GOB HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION A DECREE ELIMINATING THE MANDATORY SUPREME COURT REVIEW OF CASES DECIDED BY THE LOWER COURTS. OUR CONSUL INTERVENED EFFECTIVELY IN THE ARREST OF THREE AMERICANS FOUND IN POSSESSION OF CONSUMER QUANTITIES OF DRUGS AND PERSUADED THE AUTHORITIES TO EXPEL THE TRIO RATHER THAN TO PROSECUTE. ON THE OTHER HAND, A CASE AROSE WHERE IMMEDIATE CONSULAR ACCESS WAS DENIED, BUT WAS GRANTED WITHIN 24 HOURS AND ANOTHER CASE INVOLVED FOUR DIFFERENT PRISONERS SUBJECTED TO BLATANT ATTEMPTS AT EXTORTION BY BOLIVIAN PRISON OFFICIALS. EMBASSY ACTION ACROSS THE ENTIRE RANGE OF ISSUES INVOLVING THE PRISONERS HAS BEEN EXEMPLARY. WITH SENATE APPROVAL OF TREATIES WITH MEXICO AND CANADA PROVIDING FOR THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS, WE ARE EXPLORING THE FEASIBILITY OF NEGOTIATING SUCH A TREATY WITH BOLIVIA.

5. ECONOMIC TALKS IN TRINIDAD. WE ARE PUTTING TOGETHER AN INTER-AGENCY TEAM TO VISIT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IN THE FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST IN RESPONSE TO PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' INVITATION TO CONSIDER VARIOUS ASPECTS OF TRINIDAD'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND U.S.-TRINIDADIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS. THERE HAS BEEN HIGH INTEREST AND GOOD RESPONSE FROM THE OTHER AGENCIES. DICK ARELLANO WILL HEAD THE TEAM AND PLANS TO VISIT CARACAS AND GEORGETOWN AFTERWARDS IN RELATION TO OUR MORE ACTIVE POLICY TOWARDS THE CARIBBEAN.

6. JAMAICA STAND-BY LOAN APPROVED. WE ARE GOING FORWARD WITH THE 12 MILLION DOLLAR PL-480 PROGRAM FOR JAMAICA, AND WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT TO PROCEED WITH

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THE REMAINING 50 MILLION DOLLARS OF THE PACKAGE APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT NOW THAT JAMAICA HAS REACHED AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF. WE ARE INFORMING THE CONGRESS OF OUR PLANS.

7. ARA FRONT OFFICE. DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES AMONG THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES. BILL STEDMAN HAS BEEN

GIVEN ACROSS-THE-BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES TO ACT AS MY "ALTER EGO" WITH SPECIAL INTEREST IN MANAGEMENT, PANAMA, AND CUBAN AFFAIRS. DICK ARELLANO WILL CONCENTRATE ON ECONOMIC AND FUNCTIONAL AFFAIRS. FRANK DEVINE WILL CONCENTRATE ON SOUTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS, AND SALLY SHELTON, ARRIVING ON AUGUST 1, WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CARIBBEAN, MEXICAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN AFFAIRS. VANCE

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